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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/581,709	10/10/2000	Joseph Wayne Forler	RCA88796	4780

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EXAMINER

SHANG, ANNAN Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2623	

DATE MAILED: 03/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/581,709

Applicant(s)

FORLER, JOSEPH WAYNE

Examiner

Annan Q. Shang

Art Unit

2617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 02/16/06 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is not clear how and to what extent the limitation "for reducing user access" further limits the claimed limitations and as such the limitation is not being given any patentable weight.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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4. Claim 1-3, 5-9 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Perlman (5,583,576)** and in view of **Anderson et al (6,005,631)** all prior arts previously cited.

As to claim 1-3 and 5-7, note the **Perlman** reference figure 1, discloses a technique for selectively inhibiting television receiving apparatus from displaying those programs which satisfy predetermined content rating criteria (col. 3, line 58-col. 4, line 19) and further discloses an apparatus for processing and outputting a program signal, comprising:

the claimed "a data receiver for receiving a signal channel selections..." is met by IR Remote Receiver (IR-R) 202 (fig. 1 and col. 5, lines 15-32) for receiving channel selection form a user;

the claimed "a tuner for receiving a program signal associated with one of a plurality of channels..." is met Tuner 204 (col. 5, lines 33-62), which receives a plurality of signal channels in response to signal channel selection from a user via Remote Control Unit (RCU) 202, the selected one of the plurality of channels including signal;

the claimed "a signal output for providing an output signal..." is met by Display 208 (col. 6, lines 44-58), which provides an output signal from the received program signal;

the claimed "an auxiliary data decoder for detecting program related information..." is met by Data Extractor (Data-Ext) 203 (col. 5, lines 53-62), which extracts EPG data under the control of Microprocessor 205 and stores in Memory 206;

the claimed “a central processing unit operatively connected to the data receiver, the signal input, signal output and the auxiliary decoder...” is met by Microprocessor (MP) 205 (fig. 1, col. 5, lines 53-62, col. 6, lines 24-31 and col. 7, lines 6-65), note that MP 205 is coupled to IR-R 202, Tuner 204, Display 208 and Data-Ext 203 and where MP 205 controls Display 208 in a predetermined manner to block a user access to the program signal via Tuner 204 when a list of channel selections is received, note the MP 205 compares the rating and stores a list of channels that meets the desired rating and controls Display 208 to display only the desired receiveable channels that are connected based on rating and permits the user to tune to any desired list of channel displayed on Display 208 (note figs 2, 3 and col. 8, line 12-col. 3, line 1+).

Perlman displaying only parental control channels or EPG to enable a user to select a desired channel, but fails to explicitly teach detecting a user actions such as: flipping through channels, toggling between channels, channel surfing, etc.,

However, **Anderson** reference figures 5 and 10, discloses methods and apparatus for organizing and searching an electronic programming guide with parental control features (fig. 5, Rating R, PG, etc., col. 9, line 37-42 and col. 10, lines 49-53) and Remote Control 126, with Channel CH (up) and CH (down) features that enables the user to toggle between channels (figs. 5, 10, and col. 9, lines 13-31).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of Anderson into the system of Perlman to provide a remote control with navigation features that enables the user to perform a

various channel selections as desired and furthermore enable the CPU to block the user access to the program signal during such period(s) of channel switching.

As to claims 8-9, Perlman further discloses where the MP 205 controls Display 208 in a predetermined manner when the predetermined sequence of signal channel selections is received and program related information previously detected in the program signal met as a user selected blocking criteria (col. 8, lines 38-61), where MP 205 provides the user an On Screen Display menu on Display 208 for allowing user selection of the first blocking mode and provides a restricted access for allowing user selection of the blocking criteria (figs 2, 3, col. 7, lines 19-58 and col. 8, line 12-col. 3, line 1+).

As to claim 11, Perlman further disclose where if the selected program or channel is unacceptable, the MP 205 controls the output signal for reducing user access to the program signal by one blanking the television programs that can be received on other channels during the same time (col. 7, lines 6-19)

Claim 12 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 1.

5. Claims 10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Perlman et al (5,583,576)** in view of **Anderson et al (6,005,631)** as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of **Collings (5,828,402)**.

As to claim 10, Perlman as modified by Anderson, fail to explicitly teach restricting access by using a password protected on screen menu.

However, note the **Collings** reference teaches selective blocking of program signal and restricts access to program using On Screen Display Menu with PIN. "password" protected (fig. 5A, col. 16, lines 50-60 and col. 12, line 44-52).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of Collings into the system of Perlman as modified by Anderson to provide a password or PIN to identify a user and add additional security to the system.

As to claim 13, Perlman as modified by Anderson further teaches where Tuner 204 can receive direct satellite broadcast television, cable distribution, over-the-air broadcast, etc., but fail to explicitly teach a second input for receiving a second program signal from an external source, and a switch operatively connected to the signal input and where the MP 205 controls the second input.

However, Collings further teaches where the Inputs 32 for one or more signals, such as incoming video signal 24 and, also Audio and Video Outputs of a VCR "second signal" for receiving a second program stored on the VCR "an external signal source" (col. 3, lines 31-44), and a Switching means 36 and 38 connected between the Input 24, the VCR signal inputs and RF Output 34 and MPU 42, where Switch means 36 and 38 operatively coupled to respective one of the program signals with the RF Output 34 in response to a signal selection from the user, where MPU 42 controls the RF Output signal in a predetermined manner, based on the user stored blocking preferences, to reduce user access to the RF Output signal for at least until the program related

information has been determined when a new signal source selection is received (col. 3, lines 45-61 and col. 12, line 30-45).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of Collings into the system of Perlman as modified by Anderson to provide other input sources and control rating of other addition sources besides broadcast television and further provide the user with addition services.

Conclusion

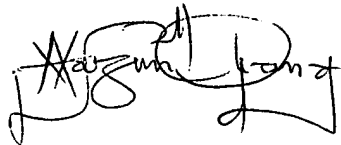
6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Saib et al (6,505,346) disclose station jump loop.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Annan Q. Shang** whose telephone number is **571-272-7355**. The examiner can normally be reached on **700am-400pm**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Christopher S. Kelley** can be reached on **571-272-7331**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **571-273-8300**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the **Electronic Business Center (EBC)** at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Annan Q. Shang', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Annan Q. Shang